

Application No.: 10/674,500

Docket No.: 21029-00225-US1

REMARKS

The Office Action and the prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. In response to the points raised by the Examiner at the top of page 2 of the Office Action, a Supplemental Biographic Data Sheet is attached herewith which clearly sets forth the link of foreign priority to the corresponding British application 9908602.7 filed on April 15, 1999.

In order to clarify the patentable aspects of the present invention, the foregoing amendment combines claims 17-20 and changes the dependency of claim 21 so that it is now dependent on the sole remaining independent claim 17. Claim 22 remains unchanged as dependent on claim 21. Also, the specification has been amended to clarify informalities as was done in parent application No. 09/058,901.

Original claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yu. Claims 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu in view of Bosiers. Yu concerns low modulus thermalplastic olefin compositions that are useful for the fabrication of flexible skins or liners. As shown in Fig. 11 and described in col. 19, lines 18-26 of the reference, calendered or extruded sheets produce scrim reinforced industrial liners for applications such as roof membranes. The document neither discloses nor teaches the use of similar materials as a liner for water pipes.

To the contrary, Yu discloses the use of a multilayer sheet used in a manner that is totally inconsistent with a liner of round cross section for water pipes. Therefore, Yu certainly fails to anticipate the present invention and it is hard to imagine a reasonable adaptation of Yu by one of ordinary skill in the art so as to meet the claimed invention.

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The patent to Bosiers is directed to a multilayer polyolefin with balanced sealant properties. The layers or sheets are directed to a polymer mixture that provides an improved sealant layer with balanced properties for use in multilayer packaging and storing structures. See col. 4, lines 22-24 of the reference.

Accordingly, the technical field covered by Bosiers is completely different from that addressed by Yu so that neither reference taken singly nor in any reasonable combination would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to produce the claimed invention.

Combined claim 17 essentially corresponds to an improved adaptation of a product for the renovation of water pipes having small diameter for the following reasons that are discussed on page 9 of the specification.

1. Better maneuverability of the liner and in particular to negotiate bends of small diameter; and
2. Better resistance to hanging up during a lining process, in particular in the case of small pipes having partial blockage in the form scaling or furring.

For the reasons set forth above the amended claim 17, 21 and 22 are believe to be allowable.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21029-00225-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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